



## Social Security: It's Simple Math

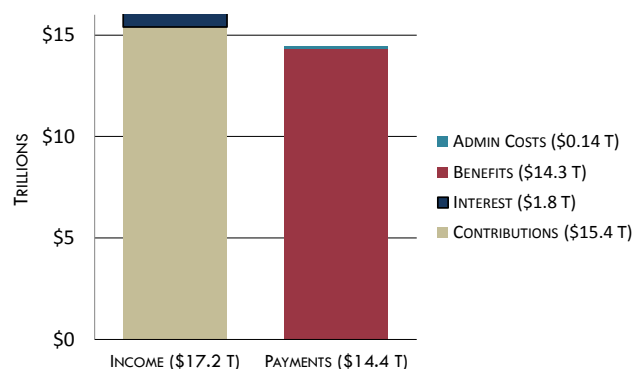
Over 77 years and through 13 recessions, Social Security has paid Americans their earned Social Security benefits on time and in full. Today more than 58 million rely on Social Security for all or part of their earnings. How has Social Security managed to be so successful? It's simple math:

- Since its inception, Social Security has taken in approximately \$15.4 trillion in contributions from American workers and Social Security has paid out approximately \$14.4 trillion (\$14.3 trillion in benefits and \$136 billion in administrative costs).
- The approximately \$1 trillion in excess contributions have been invested in U.S. Treasury bonds, earning approximately \$1.8 trillion in interest over the decades.
- As a result, the Trust Fund has a current surplus of \$2.8 trillion.

If projections hold true, by 2033, Social Security will have used all of the reserves. Its Trust Fund and its income from worker contributions will only cover about three-fourths of the cost of paying earned benefits. But in the near term, the biggest crisis facing Social Security is reckless Republican budget cuts which have forced Social Security to reduce office hours and close local offices, and which have increased the wait for earned Social Security disability benefits. *Today, Social Security's budget is \$500 million lower than it was in 2010, even though 4 million more Americans now receive benefits.*

Democrats are committed to common sense solutions that ensure our grandchildren get the same Social Security protection Americans have relied on for generations.

### OVER ITS LIFETIME, SOCIAL SECURITY HAS RAISED \$17.2 TRILLION AND PAID OUT \$14.4 TRILLION.



Source: [Office of the Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration](#)

Note: Totals are from inception of Social Security in 1935 through the end of calendar year 2013.

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